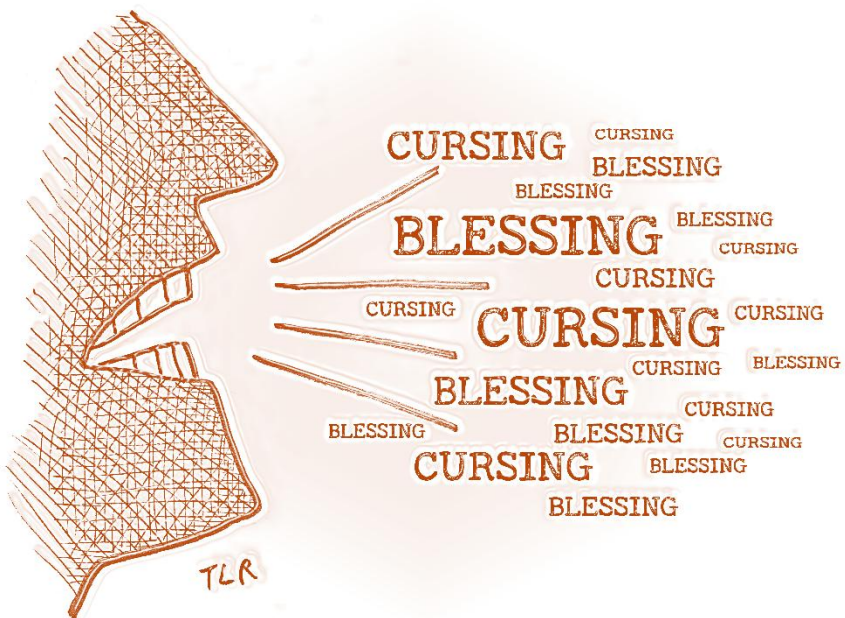


“Both Blessing and Cursing...”

(James 3:10)



“But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison.”—James 3:8 (NASB'95)

Valley Grace Brethren Church of Armagh
March 2nd, AD 2025

THE LORD'S DAY

The Twenty-third Day of February, *in the Year of our Lord 2025*



- ONE - IS - YOUR - MASTER - AND - ALL - YE - ARE - BRETHREN -



Welcome to the worship services of Valley Grace Brethren Church!

Sunday School—9:30 AM.

Our series on Church History examines the forerunners to the Reformation as we wrap-up our studies in the Medieval Church.

Morning Worship—10:30 AM.

Call to Worship:* *"Alleluia!"* (#516; v. 2 only).

Invocation.*

Hymn: *"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"* (#37).

Prayer for Tithes & Offerings.

Scripture Reading: James 3:2-12.

Prayer, Praises, & Testimony.

Hymn: *"Praise Him! Praise Him!"* (#59).

Announcements.

Hymn: *"Praise Him, All Ye Little Children"* (#435).*

Dismissal for Children's Church.

Message: *"RESOLVED: Trusting in the Sovereignty."*

Closing Hymn:* *"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"* (#45).

Benediction.*

**Please stand, if able.*



Week of Feb. 23 – March 1

Sunday School—9; Morning Worship—17;

Offering—\$601.⁶⁵

Midweek Prayer & Bible Study—resumes March 20.

Video: *"RESOLVED: Part III"*—129 views

Cover Art: *"Blessing & Cursing,"* by Pastor Terry L. Reese



Our WINTER POTLUCK fellowship meal is directly after today's. **EVERYONE** is welcome, whether you were able to bring food or not!

A REMINDER—we wish to begin our approx. 10-week course on the *Statement of Faith* around the beginning of April. If you desire to be a part of this instruction, please let the Pastor know ASAP! This is especially vital for prospective new members, but **EVERYONE**—even present members—are invited to participate.



Please pray for the **Mid-Year meetings** of the **College of Pastors** (i.e., National Ministerium) of the **Conservative Grace Brethren Churches International (CGBCI)**, which will be held from March 10-13 at the Grace Brethren Chapel of Gibsonburg (Fremont), Ohio (host Pastors are Keith Merriman & Jonathan Edwards). Pastor Reese, Lord willing, will be attending these meetings.



CCCS BANQUET

The Cambria County Christian School will be holding its vital annual spring banquet fundraiser at 6 PM on Tues., March 18th, at the Imperial Room Restaurant in Ebensburg. Please let us know by March 2nd if you plan to attend and join us at our table.



Midweek Prayer Services resume
Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 6:30 PM.



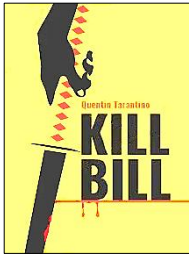
TARANTINO'S SWORD-SONG

Rom. 12:19: "Never take your own revenge, beloved..."

Pastor Terry L. Reese, Valley GBC of Armagh, PA; 2/23/25

I enjoy walking along the Conemaugh River through the old Cambria City section of Johnstown, which has a rich ethnic heritage and intriguing architecture. There is, however, one house that always “creeps-me-out.” It has a sign ominously warning potential trespassers that the homeowner is “neo-pagan,” and that “the old gods are less forgiving than the Christian deity.”

This reminds me of Quentin Tarantino, an innovative filmmaker



whose movies—saturated with bloodbaths and profanity—are nonetheless masterful examples of narrative storytelling. Contrasted with today’s post-modern, post-Christian Hollywood, Tarantino is sometimes characterized as philosophically *PRE-modern* and *PRE-Christian*. Central to his essentially pagan worldview is a seriously

explored spiritual ethic of personal VENGEANCE (e.g., *Django Unchained*, *Kill Bill*), which demands—in accordance with the inflexible requirements of some universal “divine-principle”—acts of human retaliation whenever a wrong has been committed.

Regarding personal vengeance, the Bible speaks of two exemplar men in this regard—Lamech and Jesus.

Lamech (Gen. 4:18-24), the 7th from Cain, composed the first poem to be recorded in the Bible, the grim “Sword Song,” in which he boasts of murdering a young man who injured him. Lamech would be avenged 77 times-over for any wrong!

Contrast this mindset with that of the meek and lowly Jesus (1Pet. 2:21-23), who taught us to forgive seventy times seven times, if necessary (Matt. 18:22). Beloved, let us meditate upon Romans 12:17-21. We are called to peace, not personal vendettas. We are called to exchange evil for good, and to overcome evil with good. Such powerful and unconventional expressions of goodness on our part may soften the hearts of our adversaries, and even serve to bring about their personal conviction and repentance (Prov. 16:7, Rom. 12:20). Let us therefore sheath the sword (Matt. 26:52) and repay evil with good (1Thess. 5:15)!